

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



TWO RIVER REGIONAL POLICE STUDY GROUP PHASE 1.0 PRESENTATION

Background

This is an executive summary of the Final Report for Phase 1.0 of the Two River Regional Police Study Group, an analysis of the feasibility of regionalizing or otherwise sharing law enforcement services delivery in the Boroughs of Fair Haven, Little Silver and Rumson, three contiguous municipalities in Monmouth County, New Jersey. The report was prepared by the Patriot Consulting Group, Inc., which also conducted the investigation and analysis.

Status

Work on Phase 1.0 is complete and this report contains a detailed analysis of the feasibility of sharing law enforcement services in and between the Boroughs of Fair Haven, Little Silver and Rumson but does not recommend full regionalization at this time. The analysis and recommendations detail how these communities can now share police services and potentially regionalize their police departments in the future.

Methods

This report was prepared following an in depth study of the issues relative to the possible regionalization of police services. This analysis was executed utilizing a combination of interviews, site visits, and research, including reviewing documents, reports, run surveys, contracts, interlocal agreements, budgets, financial records, site plans, organization charts, codes, ordinances, resolutions, statutes, schedules, policies, procedures, guidelines, records and other items necessary or important to this assessment.

Patriot's investigation was guided by the decision of the Two River Regional Police Study Group that any and all recommendations must 1) Either improve or maintain law enforcement service delivery and 2) Result in a projected cost savings or they would not be considered.

Results

The investigation and analysis resulted in a pool of data that suggested that regionalization of law enforcement service delivery in the studied area could realize potentially significant savings for the three municipalities in the study area. The analysis also suggested that significant service enhancements could be instituted through the sharing of specialized law enforcement functions.

Significant efforts to collect comparable response and call data and statistics will be required to properly assess the feasibility of fully regionalizing the three forces. Until such time as these efforts are undertaken, traditional, time-tested means and methods of sharing services between the three municipalities appears to be completely feasible.

Conclusions

Though it will be time and work intensive, the regionalization of public safety communications services, law enforcement services and ancillary and auxiliary police functions will likely result in a significant improvement in service efficiency, a greater scope of law enforcement services and more varieties of services than the current system allows.

While full regionalization of law enforcement services has the single greatest potential to realize significant savings, significant observation and recording of how law enforcement officers are deployed, how efficiently they operate while deployed and what functions they are forced to perform during deployment must be earnestly and honestly executed before such a regionalization can be fully assessed and implemented.

Until such time, the three participating municipalities could formalize (and thereby legitimize) the existing sharing of police services, implement new shared police services and begin to collect the data necessary to properly and responsibly assess the feasibility of fully regionalizing police services.

This period of sharing some police services will allow officers, administrators and the public time to adjust to the idea of shared police services, grow accustomed to the operations of a potentially shared department, means test approaches to sharing services and making adjustments as appropriate and to generally learn important details about a potentially regionalized operation without actually regionalizing any service.

Recommendations

1. Traditional shared services agreements should be executed to implement the sharing of communications, information technology, detectives, youth aid, prisoner observation, purchasing and traffic functions between and among the three towns.
2. Preparations for and the establishment of a Joint Management Committee or other structure to oversee sharing and regionalization efforts.
3. Uniform collection of call data tracking how law enforcement officers are deployed, how efficiently they operate while deployed and what functions they are forced to perform during deployment should be implemented as soon as technologically feasible.
4. Consideration of the feasibility of a full regionalization of all law enforcement services should be done upon collection of a significant data set.